

MODIS Technical Team Meeting
Thursday, January 13, 2005
Building 33, Room E125

Vince Salomonson chaired the meeting. In attendance were Barbara Conboy, Dorothy Hall, Ed Masuoka, Jack Xiong, Eric Vermote, Steve Kempler, Skip Reber, and Chris Justice, with Yolanda Harvey taking the minutes.

1.0 Upcoming Events

- MODIS Science Team Meeting, March 22-24, 2005, BWI Marriott, Baltimore, Maryland.
- IGARSS 2005, July 25-29, Seoul, South Korea. Abstracts deadline past (December 8, 2004). <http://www.igarss05.org/>

2.0 Meeting Minutes

2.1 General Discussion

Salomonson discussed the draft agenda of the upcoming March 2005 MODIS Science Team Meeting (to be held at the BWI Marriott). There are a number of objectives for the meeting. The first is to strive for the new Team Members being more engaged in the intents and purposes of the total MODIS efforts and attendant objectives in support of the NASA earth sciences effort. Along with that, the second objective is to collect the latest results of people's work with the data. This is particularly important in providing support to the program managers at HQ and their attempts to show progress and results from the funding support provided. The third and related objective is to assess progress on the several overall thrusts outlined at the last meeting of the Team. The draft agenda has been reviewed by Paula Bontempi, the MODIS Program Scientist at HQ and has her general concurrence. The principal mechanism to document and provide input at the meeting will be through poster papers that will be requested of all Team members. A copy of the agenda will be sent out to team members as it gets fleshed out a bit more. The agenda should be going out in the next week or so.

Salomonson noted that he is working on a proposal that responds to a Senior Review of all existing Earth science missions (e.g. Terra and all its instruments including MODIS) that have exceeded or will shortly exceed their design lifetimes to see if the missions should be extended beyond the design lifetimes. The Terra mission reaches its designed six-year lifetime in December of 2005. The draft request-for-proposal guidelines request proposals covering the FY06-09 period. The proposals are to define scientific accomplishments (i.e., in the sense of benefit to cost) and what could be accomplished in terms of advancing science if another four years were approved. The RFP should be issued soon and the proposal is due on or about March 16, 2005.

2.2 Instrument Status

Xiong reported that both instruments are working normally, though there are spacecraft issues. The Terra spacecraft formatter engine had an anomaly on December 24, 2004 that led to 6-7 hours of data loss for all instruments onboard. The plan to power recycle its solid-state recorder

(SSR) is still under evaluation. (Note: HQ has disapproved the SSR recycle at this time). Aqua performed a drag make-up maneuver (Jan 12, 2005).

2.3 DAAC

Kempler reported that things are working fine at the Goddard DAAC.

2.4 SDST

Masuoka reported that they are waiting on the Atmospheres Cloud Optical Depth portion of PGE06 for Collection 5. Mark Gray is to update the software at the end of the month, and if he does, production could start as soon as February 11, 2005. This would allow a July 21 finish for combined Aqua and Terra MODIS data. The team is also exploring alternatives if Gray is not able to deliver on time. On the Land side, there a review continuing to assess PGE's to make sure they are ready for Collection 5. The emphasis is on making as sure as possible this is the case even at the expense of delaying the start of the Collection 5 processing and reprocessing. It would not be good to start with inferior science at this point. With a start date of August 2005, that puts the whole process end into February of 2007.

Masuoka noted that ten successful years of working with SAIC has come to an end (the contract expired on December 15, 2004). A new contractual arrangement is being put in place.

Masuoka reported that HQ recently asked him if MODIS data had been requested to help with the SE Asian tsunami relief efforts, and he responded with regards to Rapid Response, since no federal agencies had specifically requested the data through channels he was aware of. However, it turns out that the US Navy are using the data directly in their relief efforts. They are getting the data from a feed off of NOAA's NRT (or possibly their own pipe).

2.5 Land

Justice discussed further the importance of getting the Land products right in preparations for Collection 5. There will be an explicit effort to involve the community in the evaluation of changes and gain their confidence that the changes are useful and necessary. The general emphasis is to keep the land science community well informed.

3.0 Action Items

3.1 New Action Items

No new items.

3.2 Old Action Items

3.2.1 Robert Wolfe will check on the status of the ephemeris problem on Aqua.

Status: Open

3.2.2 Dorothy Hall will write a report on the recent Snow and Ice User Workshop.

Status: Closed.